
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

24 February 2026

Nancy Kelly
Sequoia National Forest
32588 Highway 190
Springville, CA 93265

NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY FOR COVERAGE UNDER ORDER NO. WQ 2022-0048-DWQ, ORDER FOR CLEAN WATER ACT SECTION 401 GENERAL WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION AND WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR RESTORATION PROJECTS STATEWIDE, HORSE MEADOW RESTORATION PROJECT (WDID# 5C54CR00167), TULARE COUNTY

On 28 January 2026, the Sequoia National Forest (Permittee) submitted a Notice of Intent (NOI) to enroll under and comply with State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) Order No. WQ 2022-0048-DWQ, Order for Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification and Waste Discharge Requirements for Restoration Projects Statewide (General Certification Order), which was adopted on 16 August 2022.

The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) has reviewed your enrollment materials and finds the Horse Meadow Restoration Project (Project) meets the requirements of, and is hereby enrolled under, Order No. WQ 2022-0048-DWQ. You may proceed with your Project in accordance with the Order. This Notice of Applicability is being issued under the General Certification Order pursuant to Section 3838 of the California Code of Regulations.

A copy of [Order WQ 2022-0048-DWQ](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/water_quality/2022/wqo2022-0048-dwq.pdf) (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/water_quality/2022/wqo2022-0048-dwq.pdf) can be found on the State Water Resources Control Board's General Orders webpage.

The Project is described in the NOI requesting coverage under the General Certification Order and supplementary information (Application Package). Coverage under the General Certification Order is no longer valid if the Project (as described) is modified. Failure to comply with Order No. WQ 2022-0048-DWQ constitutes a violation of the California Water Code and may result in enforcement action or termination of enrollment under the Order.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The Project is designed to reestablish natural hydrologic function within a high-elevation headwater meadow that has been degraded by channel incision and compounded by

wildfire impacts. The proposed restoration will restore floodplain connectivity across 30.62 acres by eliminating incised channels and reinstating a Stage 0 condition; a dynamic, multi-threaded flow regime that mimics pre-disturbance hydrology.

Project elements that affect aquatic resources include complete fill of three deeply incised channel segments using locally sourced native soils, supplemented by woody debris structures to stabilize surfaces and enhance roughness. At the downstream meadow constriction, a valley grade control structure composed of angular rock and soil will anchor restored elevations and prevent future head cutting. Additional measures include assisted wood fill in marginally incised reaches and strategic placement of salvaged logs to slow flow velocities, capture sediment, and deter cattle trailing. All disturbed surfaces will be dressed with salvaged sod and seeded with native graminoids and forbs to accelerate vegetative recovery and stabilize soils.

The Project will permanently impact 0.56 acre of wetland and 0.46 acre/1,162 linear feet of stream channel. The Project activities will result in restoration of 19.51 of meadow (wetland) habitat.

PROJECT LOCATION:

The Project is located at Horse Meadow within Sequoia National Forest, which is a headwater mountain meadow at 6,400 ft elevation through which Horse Meadow Creek flows. The meadow and surrounding mixed conifer forest burned in the 2021 Windy Fire. The approximate center of the Project area is located at latitude 35.97551 degrees North and longitude -118.62215 degrees West.

PROJECT SCHEDULE:

The initial Project construction is expected to begin in September 2026 and last through October 2026. The seasonal work period in subsequent years is from August through October (low-flow season).

APPLICATION FEE RECEIVED:

Federal dischargers involved in Dredge and Fill Operations only are not subject to permit fees as required by Section 3833(b)(3)(A) and Section 2200(a)(3) of the California Code of Regulations.

REPORTING AND NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

The Permittee shall follow notification and reporting requirements described in this Notice of Applicability (NOA), and those found in Attachment D of the Order WQ 2022-0048-DWQ, unless specified as an optional requirement and excluded from this NOA.

ADDITIONAL CONDITIONS:

1. Annual Reporting

The Permittee shall submit an Annual Report each year within one month of the anniversary of the effective date of this Notice of Applicability. Annual reporting shall continue until the active discharge period is complete and the Project enters the post-construction monitoring phase where upon the Permittee shall annually submit a

Post-Construction Monitoring Report (Report Type 2) The Post-Construction Monitoring Report shall be submitted on the anniversary of the date that the Project restoration activities were completed.

The Annual Report and Post Construction Monitoring Report shall include the information specified in Attachment D, Part A of Order No. WQ 2022-0048-DWQ. The Permittee shall submit the report in accordance with the report submittal instructions in Attachment D of Order No. WQ 2022-0048-DWQ and email it to centralvalleyfresno@waterboards.ca.gov with a cc to Brandon Salazar at brandon.salazar@waterboards.ca.gov. The WDID No. for this project is 5C54CR00167.

2. Notification for In-Water Work and Diversions

The project proponent shall notify the Water Board at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to initiating work in flowing or standing water or stream diversions. Notification may be via e-mail, delivered written notice, or other verifiable means. Within five (5) working days following completion of work in water or stream diversions, an In-Water Work and Diversions Water Quality Monitoring Report must be submitted to the Water Board.

3. Environmental Monitoring

Per General Protection Measure 5 (GPM-5) of the General Certification Order, a resource specialist shall ensure that all applicable protective measures are implemented during project construction. The resource specialist shall have authority to stop any work if they determine that any permit requirement is not fully implemented. The resource specialist shall prepare and maintain a monitoring log of construction site conditions and observations, which will be kept on file.

NOTICE OF COMPLETION:

Upon completion of the Project, the Permittee shall submit a Request for Notice of Project Complete (NOC) Letter no later than 30 days after Project completion. The NOC request shall demonstrate the Project was carried out in accordance with the Project description, include a map of the Project location with final boundaries of the restoration area, and include post-project photographs. More information on the NOC request is listed in Attachment D, Part B (Report Type 4) of the General Certification Order.

If you have any questions regarding this Notice of Applicability, please contact Brandon Salazar at (559) 445-6287 or at brandon.salazar@waterboards.ca.gov.

Original signed by Alex S. Mushegan
for Patrick Pulupa
Executive Officer

Attachment 1 – Project Map

cc (Electronic copy only): see next page

cc: Taylor Powell
United States Army Corps of Engineers
Sacramento District Headquarters
taylor.m.powell@usace.army.mil

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 9
R9cwa401@epa.gov

Justin Sloan
United States Fish & Wildlife Service
justin_sloan@fws.gov

Department of Fish and Wildlife
Region 4
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CWA Section 401 WQC Program
Division of Water Quality
State Water Resources Control Board
Stateboard401@waterboards.ca.go

Terri Rust
Plumas Corp.

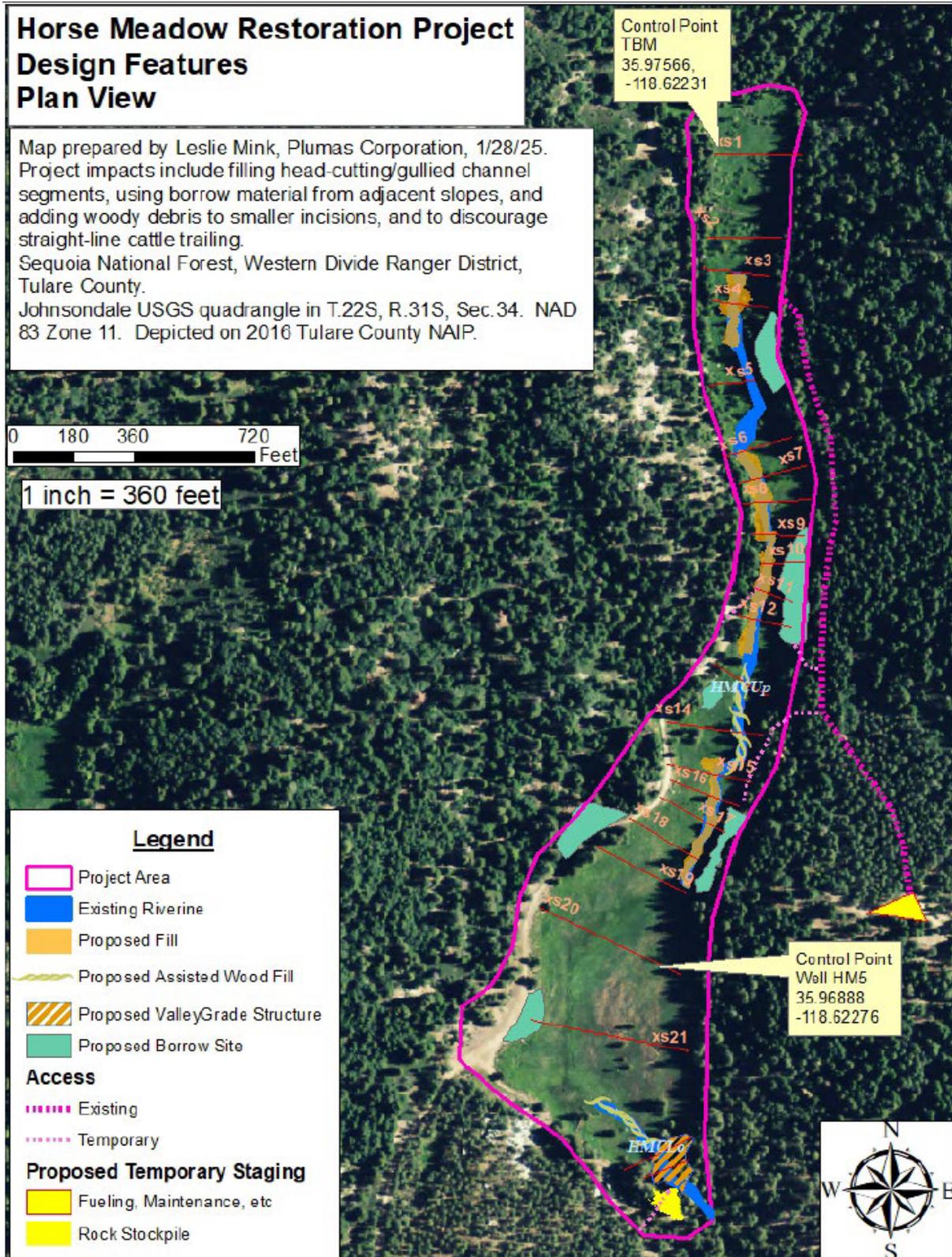


Figure 1: Project Impact Map